

Holiday Hints

Tips For Entertaining Like An Expert

(NAPSA)—Wouldn't it be great if you had access to expert advice when planning your holiday get-together? How do the professionals handle food quantities and unexpected guests? What do bartenders suggest for creating custom, signature cocktails? How do the party planners to the stars feel about sending invitations via e-mail versus sending hard-copy invitations in the mail?

Now you can entertain like the experts with tips from some of the country's top chefs, bartenders, event planners and etiquette experts. Here are just a few ideas:

- **Guest management**—From making sure your shy guests are circulating to dealing with unexpected guests, guest management is one of the most important aspects of successful party throwing. Press your quiet guests into service by asking them to circulate with a tray of glasses and a pitcher of cocktails. One festive and easy cocktail sure to get everyone into the holiday spirit is a Kahlua Hazelnut Eggnog. Just combine 2 parts Kahlua Hazelnut, 1 part vodka, and prepared eggnog and pour over ice. Garnish with a cinnamon stick or a sprig of mint.

- **The new party etiquette**—It's the 21st century, so it's OK to send out electronic invitations by e-mail, right? It all depends on the mood you're hoping to achieve. Electronic invitations connote a certain degree of casualness, and

people tend to take RSVPs less seriously. If you want a more formal atmosphere for your party, and you need an accurate head count, it's probably better to mail out hard-copy invitations.

Whether your holiday party is an intimate family gathering or a get-together of 50 of your closest friends, a little planning goes a long way.



- **Getting in the mood**—Music is a great way to set the tone for a party. To get everyone in the holiday mood, songs that everyone knows can make for a great sing-along session. Check out kahluatips.com for other tips to help your guests get in the mood.

- **Making introductions**—As the Hostess with the Mostess, it's up to you to bequeath your grace and panache onto those gathered. You know everyone (or at least you invited everyone) so it should be a breeze to introduce people to one another. Just match up the kindred spirits. For instance, "Jules, you enjoy camping, right? Michael here was actually a hermit for a couple of years before coming back to civilization."

To help, Kahlua has assembled a who's who of the entertaining world and made it available to you via (888) KAHLUA-TIPS and at kahluatips.com.